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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 43rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 27 March 2006, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Organization of work

1. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to the revised programme of work and pointed out that additional informal consultations would be scheduled in due course. Since the Fifth Committee must conclude its work by Friday, 31 March 2006, any outstanding proposals should be submitted to the appropriate coordinators by noon the following day.

2. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, thanked the Chairman and the Bureau for having circulated the revised programme of work. It was vital to ensure that delegations had a full understanding of the task before them and an idea of how consultations on the outstanding items would be organized. The Group of 77 and China stood ready to work constructively with all its partners in order to ensure the successful and timely conclusion of the Committee's work and, if necessary, was willing to participate in weekend meetings.

3. Since the Bureau was responsible for managing the Committee's work, she would be grateful if it could also provide information on the proposed schedule for "informal" informal consultations. In view of the number of outstanding items and the need to discuss issues relating to the reform of the United Nations, it might be necessary to hold such consultations after 6 p.m. in order to make the most effective use of the time available. The Bureau should provide the Committee with regular progress reports in that regard.

4. The Group of 77 and China took the view that it would not be appropriate to defer the consideration of certain items any longer. Consequently, if agreement was not reached on those items in a timely manner, the Bureau should make arrangements to extend the first part of the resumed session.

5. **Mr. Drofenik** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union stood ready to work with all Member States in order to conclude the Committee's work by 31 March 2006. In his view, it was particularly important to take decisions on matters relating to the Peacebuilding Support Office, special political missions, the capital master plan, the scale of assessments and safety and security issues.

6. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Bureau would provide the Committee with further information about the scheduling of "informal" informal consultations as it became available.

7. **The Chairman** said that the Bureau would continue to make adjustments to the programme of work as necessary.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.